

# COLORED SOLDIERS TREATED AS SLAVES IN THE PHILIPPINES

*The New York Age*  
**Compelled to Work in Mud and Water Unloading Lumber and Shoveling Rock**  
 12-18-13.

## DRAW LINE IN U.S. ARMY

**Member of 24th Infantry Writes That White Soldiers Object to Negroes Attending Motion Picture Shows.**

## AN INVESTIGATION ASKED

**Secretary of War Requested to Probe Various Charges of Discrimination Received by The Age.**

The attention of the Secretary of War has been directed to the serious complaints against race discrimination in the United States Army received by *The Age* from members of the 24th Infantry, stationed in the Philippines. The colored soldiers make the charge that they are compelled to work as laborers in the rain and are subjected to other indignities inflicted by white officers. The colored infantrymen are taunted by the civil prisoners, who remark that the only difference between the colored soldiers and the prisoners is that the infantrymen receive money from the United States Government.

It is believed that Secretary Garrison, who is regarded as one of the broad-minded officials of the Wilson Administration, will order a thorough investigation into the serious charges preferred against the white officers of the regiment.

In a letter sent to *The Age* by a member of the 24th Infantry, the writer asks that his identity be kept a secret, as a colored soldier was recently punished for writing to friends in the United States in which the white officers were severely criticised for mistreating enlisted men.

Not only are the colored soldiers compelled to work on Sunday unloading and loading lumber and bamboo and shoveling rocks in water up to their

shoe-tops, but they are ordered to work for the white soldiers, it is alleged. And it is charged that the color line is drawn against the colored soldiers attending motion picture shows frequented by white soldiers.

**Soldier Writes Letter.**

Following is the last letter received from a member of the 24th Infantry:

Corregidor, Cayite, P. I.,  
 Nov. 11-13.

While we are in far off Philippines it affords me no little pleasure to let the public know how we are getting along. We came to Corregidor May 22, 1913, from Camp Stotsenberg. We were told we were brought to Corregidor for maneuvers. Later Companies C, D, E, F, G, H and M were assigned to duty here and the men were told to build their own quarters. Our camp was on a hillside. It started to rain day and night and our camp street looked like a flooded city. Under our beds it was the same way. We had to pitch our shelter tents inside our wall tents and we had to eat in the rain.

We are compelled to work in the rain, load and unload lumber, nipa and bamboo, pick and shovel large rocks in mud and water above our shoe-tops. The men upon quitting work are soaking wet and have no place to dry their clothes. We have to go to bed and cover up to dry or wait until the sun comes out. We work on Sunday and the men get so wet they catch cold and cough all night.

Outside of our own work we have to work for the white soldiers, doing things never demanded of us until we came over here. The launch Muley comes from Manila with chickens, eggs and fruit for the 95th, 72nd and 11th companies of Coast Artillery and L and X companies of Engineers. We have to unload the launch in rain or sunshine. Nothing ever comes on the Muley for the 24th Infantry.

They don't want us at the moving picture shows or in the post exchange or reading rooms. Still we

have to handle all the goods for the white soldiers. We walk post all night and guard the prisoners all day until 4 o'clock. The next morning we go on at 6 o'clock and guard prisoners all day and go on the next day at 4. All day long we are made to dig sewers and do other laborious work, while the white soldiers drill. We know nothing at all of the new bayonet exercises and they will soon drill us almost to death for the maneuvers. We ask the Lord how long we are going to stand this rough treatment. We have to police the non-commissioned officers' quarters and go up to the lumber yard and move lumber. Gen. Bell does not like us and our officers do not like us. No officers who would tell the truth will not deny that we are not treated as soldiers. Even the civil prisoners laugh at us and tell us we are all the same, only we get money and they don't. But they say they can sleep all night and are not treated as slaves.

The President, the Secretary of War and the Chief of Staff don't know how it touched our bleeding hearts when two torpedo boats lay in the bay and the crew came ashore and went to the top of the hill to play ball. They came by with white soldiers and saw us in a cut working like so many convicts. It hurt us to think that they treated Uncle Sam's soldiers in such a disgraceful manner.

We have been worked so hard we did not even get a chance to finish target practice. We are being treated like dogs, but as long as we are here we will stand it and serve our flag.

This is one of several letters received by *THE AGE* from members of the 24th Infantry protesting against rank discrimination of colored soldiers in the Philippines.

**SEES MILITARY ACADEMY**  
*Mont Adw. 8-31-13*  
**Negro Troopers Escort Lord High Chancellor's Party.**

WEST POINT, N. Y., Aug. 30—Viscount Haldane, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, who is en route to Montreal, visited the Military Academy today. Lord Haldane came up the Hudson River from New York on J. Pierpont Morgan's yacht *Corsair*, which dropped anchor off West Point at 1 o'clock and immediately was boarded by Colonel Clarence P. Townsley, Superintendent of the Academy, accompanied by his staff and members of the Academic Board.

In the boarding party also were the Hon. Charles J. Doherty, Minister of Justice of the Dominion of Canada, and Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of the Province of Quebec, who came from Canada to meet the Lord High Chancellor at West Point.

After the usual courtesies had been extended on the yacht, the whole party came ashore and was escorted to the "plains" by a troop of negro

troopers. A salute of nineteen guns was fired and the battalion of cadets was up in review formation on the grass plain. Lord Haldane was enthusiastic in his praise of the cadets' appearance and congratulated their commander, Colonel Fred W. Sladen, on their excellent showing.

After a reception the academy buildings were inspected.

In the party with Lord Haldane were his sister, Miss Elizabeth Sanders Haldane; Sir Kenneth Muir MacKenzie, Clerk of the Crown; Hon. Charles J. Doherty and Mrs. Doherty, Sir Lomer Gouin and Lady Gouin, Miss Allen, J. E. Martin, President of the Par of the Province of Quebec, and Mrs. Martin, J. T. Hackett, Secretary to the Minister of Justice, and Mrs.

(Continued On Page Two.)

**NO COLOR LINE THERE.**

It is gratifying to see and know that the lovers of justice and the advocates of right may be silenced for a time, but that they still live. The telegraphic report is as follows:

Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 8.—Declaring that the Constitution of the United States had no color line in it and that neither had the constitution of the Army and Navy Union, National Commander George Russell Downs declared Capt. John C. Daley, department commander of the District of Columbia, out of order this afternoon when the latter attempted to introduce a resolution, which it was said, was designed to segregate the white and colored members of the union.

We hope that the ex-President of Princeton University and now President of the United States, Hon. Woodrow Wilson will find the time to commit to memory the ringing declarations of National Commander George Russell Downs. The report continues:

Capt. Daley, who is captain of the police in Washington, took the floor at the business session of the encampment, and was about to offer his resolution, when other members and delegates from various sections of the United States refused to listen. Cries of "Sit down!" "Out of order!" and other remarks were made, when National Commander Downs put an end to the uproar by vigorously rapping for order.

"The black man has won his right to be in the ranks of the army and navy," said Commander Downs, "by standing up with us shoulder to shoulder and fighting for the preservation of the country."

This ringing declaration emphasizes a fact which seems to have been generally forgotten. It also shows that while the Negro-haters have

been having their innings, that there are thousands and tens of thousands of white men in this country who do not subscribe to their dogmas.

We have been humiliated and insulted. We have been treated as aliens and outcasts, but the sober second sense of the American people is abroad in the land and the colored citizens of the country will come unto their own again. God bless National Commander George Russell Downs, of the Army and Navy Union and may he bring confusion to the camps of Negro-hating moss-back bourbons of the Capt. John C. Daley type.

## WHITE OFFICERS FOR REGIMENT IS PLANNED

**State Military Officials Said To Be Concocting Unfriendly Scheme**

## TRYING TO GET TECHNICAL

**Law Specifically Provides for Regiment Composed of Colored Officers and Enlisted Men.**

That there is a movement on foot to assign white field officers to the colored regiment of infantry is the rumor going the rounds, and from the attitude of the State military officials credence is attached to the report by many interested in the new regiment.

Chief opposition to the organization of a colored regiment to become a part of the National Guard of this State came from white officers who were greatly worried over the "social equality" bugaboo and it is the belief of many that if the colored citizens of the State do not show their resentment in no uncertain terms the military officials of the State of New York will see to it that the colored regiment will be under the command of white officers.

When the law was passed a few months ago authorizing the organization of a colored regiment it was understood by the legislators and the Negro citizens of the State that the personnel of the regiment would be made up of colored men from colonel down.

Although the records will show that white field officers have been appointed in this State without complying to the letter with requirements, it is reported



at the Examining Board intends to demand that all applicants for appointment as field officers must serve from two to three years as commissioned officers. If this rule was strictly observed the colonel and majors of the colored regiment would be white men, as no Negroes have been given an opportunity before to serve as commissioned officers in the State militia.

As a rule the Examining Board first summons the field officers for examination, but in this instance the lieutenants and captains are being sent for.

The rank and file of the Provisional Regiment who have been industriously drilling for several months emphatically assert that they will not serve under white officers, as the understanding was that the regiment was to be made up of colored men from colonel down.

#### MARCH OF TENTH CAVALRY. (From the New York Sun.)

The march of the Tenth Cavalry, a Negro regiment, from Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, to the camp of instruction near Winchester, Va., has not attracted much attention, but it was a fine performance. The distance traversed was 705.90 miles and the route was through five States and over several mountain ranges. The start was made on June 16, and Winchester was reached on July 19. Four days the regiment rested, and the average day's ride was 23.53 miles. The weather was generally hot, the maximum temperature being about 100 degrees on several days. One horse died of colic; three, overcome by heat, were shot; and eight were left in pasture for their own good. The ages of the horses ranged from five years to twenty-three—it appears the veteran survived. One hundred and thirty-eight pack mules shared the march, and all trotted into the instruction camp in good condition.

No hospital returns have been published, but the troopers doubtless did better than the horses. Negro soldiers are hardy and merry on the march, making light of the hardship and discomfort. The Tenth is a crack regiment, as every one of its white officers will testify, and it had been stationed for a long time in a salubrious country. Perhaps there are white regiments in the army that could have ridden from Vermont to Virginia in quicker time than the Tenth, but none could have finished the march in better temper and under better discipline.

#### WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH GOVERNOR TENER?

Governor Tener, of Pennsylvania, did the unexpected when he vetoed the bill permitting the organization of a Negro regiment, passed by the legislature of that state. It is a rather bitter pill in face of the fact that there was but one dissenting vote in the legislature. The state of Pennsylvania has done some splendid things for the colored people. The legislature appropriated \$20,000 to be used in promoting an exposition in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of freedom. The council of Philadelphia granted \$5,000 to be used in entertaining the National Negro Business League which meets in that city in August. One would think that this governor's recognition

pointed to an unusual friendly relation of the races.

Then again the Governor's known attitude on lynching, which he forcibly expressed owing to the happening in that state of a few years ago, caused him to be set down in the column of avowed friends to the race.

It will be remembered that there has been considerable talk anent the stewardship of the \$20,000 appropriated. Is it possible that the management of the fund has created distrust? Something, one will think, has changed the Governor. What is it?

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#### SAY NEGRO SOLDIERS WILL NOT RE-ENLIST.

Advices from Camp McGrath, Batangas, Philippine Islands, indicate that the lot of the Negro soldier is growing more and more unpleasant all the time. The 4th Infantry is stationed at this point and letters from men serving their enlistment with this regiment tell of conditions which make them anxious for the expiration of their term of service so they can return to the United States.

It is said that in 1914 about 200 men will finish their "hitch" and in 1915 about 600, and that these men will leave the service for good. Many of the old veterans will be among the number and they are anxious to impress upon the young Negro that the army is no more a place for the man who wants to make something of himself.

A soldier at Camp McGrath writes that the men are having a hard time, not only having their battalion drills

and practice marches every morning of five and more miles, but that they were ordered to Fort Mills, Corregidor, P. I. and put to work with pick and shovel, doing outpost duty, guarding native prisoners and doing out camp, during the rainy season, when frequently they had to eat their meals in the rain, with mud up to their ankles.

Two cents a mile has been cut from mileage, and the term of enlistment increased from three to seven years.

#### Color Line Comes Up

Philadelphia, Pa. Sept. 8.—Declaring that the Constitution of the United States had no color line in it and that neither had the constitution of the Army and Navy Union. National Commander George Russell Downs declared Capt. John C. Daley department commander of the District of Columbia out of order this afternoon when the later attempted to introduce a resolution which it was said, was designed to separate the white and colored members of the Army and Navy Union.

Captain Daley who is captain of police in Washington took the floor at the business session of the encampment; and was about to offer member and delegates from various section of the United States refuses to listen. Cries of "Sit down!" "Out of order!" and other remarks were made when National Commander Downs put an end to the uproar by vigorously rapping for order.

"The black man has won his right to be in the ranks of the army and navy," said Commander Downs, "by standing up with us shoulder to shoulder and fighting for the preservation of the country."

#### LOYAL SOUTHERN NEGRO

#### LEAVES FOR GETTYSBURG

John Anderson One of Three

Veterans from Demopolis  
to Attend Reunion

Special to The Advertiser.  
DEMOPOLIS, ALA., June 28.—Chief of Police H. A. Monnier and John C. Dow left Saturday afternoon for Gettysburg to attend the Blue and the Gray reunion. Colonel Monnier was connected with Co. A. 43rd Alabama Infantry, Gracie's brigade, and Mr. Dow served with Stewart's artillery, South Carolina. Both are members of Camp Archibald Gracie, 508, U. C. V. John Anderson, a negro who served in the civil war on the South's side, also left here to attend the Gettysburg reunion.

#### 10TH CAVALRY ORDERED TO MEXICAN BORDER.

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE. 11-6-13

Washington, D. C., Nov. 5.—The War Department has made an important announcement of changes in stations of cavalry commands, involving the relief of two regiments on the Mexican border, and contained in this announcement is the information that a cavalry instruction camp will be established and maintained near Winchester, Va., next summer. The 10th Cavalry goes from Fort Ethan Allen, Vt., to Arizona, for duty on the border, with station at Fort Huachuca, relieving the 5th Cavalry, which will take station at Fort Ethan Allen. The 15th Cavalry, the three squadrons of which now are stationed at Fort Myer, Va.; Fort Sheridan, Ill., and Fort Leavenworth, Kan., will relieve the 2d Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas, and in New Mexico for patrol duty along the border. These changes of station were decided upon, owing to the fact that the 2d and 5th regiments, to be brought to eastern stations from arduous service along the Mexican border, have had the longest foreign and tropical service in Cuba, the Philippines, Porto Rico, and Hawaii. It is also desired to station these regiments in higher altitudes, so that the officers and enlisted men may get into better physical condition.

#### THE NEW YORK AGE LAUDS GALLANT TENTH.

(From Springfield Republican.)

At a time when colored citizens of the United States find fewer things to cheer them than ought to be the case, it will do them good to hear of the praise which Maj-Gen. Leonard Wood, chief of the staff of the army, bestowed upon the 10th United States cavalry at a recent reception tendered the troopers by the colored citizens of Washington. Gen. Wood helped to welcome them, and in his address spoke of the great responsibility resting upon the 10th Cavalry as the representatives of their race. "Your record," he said, "has been a splendid one. I do not know of any other regiment that has had a cleaner or better record since I have been in the army than the 10th." Appreciation and praise could not go beyond that, and it was the word fitly and honestly spoken.

#### THE NEW YORK AGE New York's Colored Regiment

In view of the patriotic and memorable services of Negro soldiers in every war in which Americans have engaged, from the struggle for independence down to the conflict with Spain, and considering that in the event of a great war the Negroes of the country would be called to the firing line and would respond as of old, opposition to the enlistment of Ne-

#### EXAMINING BOARD FOR NEGRO REGIMENT

The following Board of Examiners has been appointed by the Governor to examine candidates for membership in the colored regiment, which is being organized under the direction of Maj. Charles W. Fillmore; Nathaniel D. Thurston, Col. Frank H. Norton, Col. George A. A. Wingate, Col. Lewis N. Spottesbury and Lieut. Col. W. S. Terriberry.

Chief W. H. Young, formerly head of the Pennsylvania Red Caps at the Pennsylvania Station, has been transferred to the office of the superintendent as messenger. W. H. Robinson, the night chief, has been promoted to Chief Young's position and F. Carter, formerly messenger for the superintendent, succeeds him as night chief. Chief Young was well liked by his men and will be missed. Before coming to the station he had shortly resigned from the army as chaplain of the fighting Tenth Cavalry.

#### COLORED REGIMENT FOR PENNSYLVANIA

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE:  
HARRISBURG, Pa., May 21.—Following a stirring speech by Representative Harry W. Bass, the lower branch of the Legislature, by a vote of 162 to 1, passed a bill to organize a colored regiment of State militia last week. The measure had been previously passed by the State Senate.

Lieut. Benjamin O. Davis and wife have returned from Liberia. Lieut. Davis has now gone to Fort Huachuca to join his command in the United States Army.



Phila. Tribune  
Sept. 13, '13.

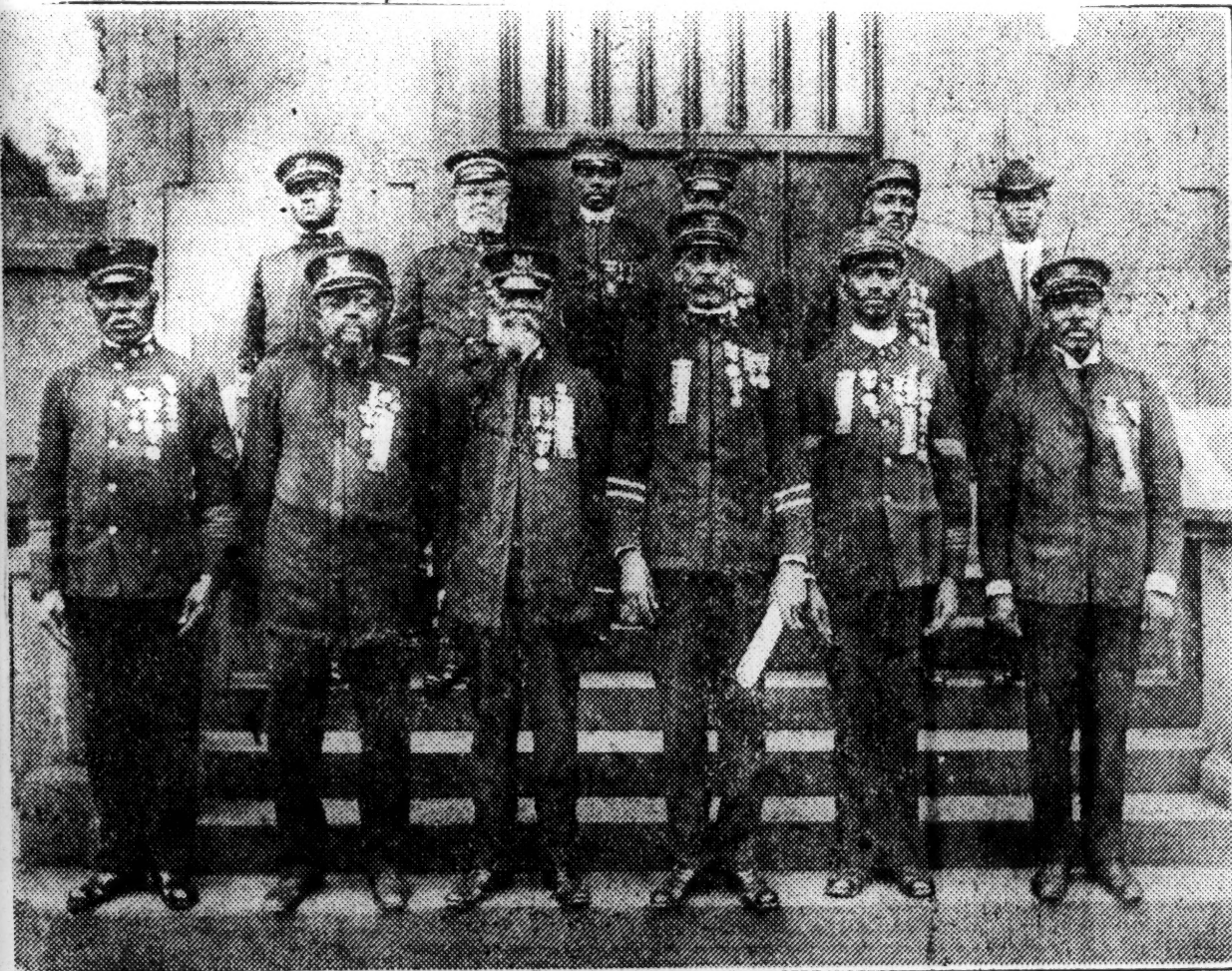


Photo by Stanley

SOME OF THE DELEGATES AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY UNION

## ARMY AND NAVY UNION

### COMRADES ENJOY BANQUET

It is doubtful whether Equity Hall ever before had gathered between its walls a more beautiful audience than that which assembled on last Wednesday night to attend the banquet given under the auspices of Joseph H. Allen Garrison No. 137 and its Ladies Auxiliary.

During the early hour of evening a band discoursed spirited selections and continued so to do until Adjutant Isaac L. Banks had notified Commander Andrew James that all things were ready for the program to begin. He then called the assemblage to order and introduced Commander James, who in a brief speech

told of the purposes of the Army and Navy Union, after which he introduced Comrade W. F. Conroy, the only colored man holding an elective place in the organization, who also made an interesting talk.

Among the other speakers of the evening were the Rev. Henry Arnett, Abel P. Caldwell, Wm. H. Miller, Chris Perry and W. J. Balor.

Among the lady speakers were Mrs. Susan J. Moore, Mrs. S. W. Layton, Mrs. Stella B. Jordan of Washington, D. C., all of whom presented the merits of the Army and Navy Union and expressed the hope that the mothers, wives, sisters and

sweethearts of all regularly discharged soldiers or sailors would join the organization.

A solo sang by Mrs. Banks added much to the pleasure of the occasion. At the conclusion of the speech making, the large company sat down to a nicely prepared banquet, which was elegantly served by Caterer R. S. Jackson. All of the visiting delegates expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the courtesies extended to them by the people of Philadelphia.

## ARMY GAINS MEN IN FISCAL YEAR

Adjutant General Gives Interesting Figures in Annual Report—Negro Regiments Had Smallest Number of Desertions

12-10-13  
Adjutant

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—With its authorized strength increased by 3,352 men, the United States army lost instead of gained numbers during the fiscal year just closed. Including the Philippine scouts the army had 85,569 men, compared with 87,965 twelve months before.

Adjutant General George Andrews, in his annual report, made public today, commented upon the fact that 80 per cent of the applicants for enlistment at recruiting stations were rejected while 14 per cent of those accepted at recruiting stations subsequently were rejected at depots.

Out of a total of 25,086 enlistments during the last fiscal year, 18,802 were native white; 3,365 foreign white; 2,049 colored; 27 Indians; 216 Porto Ricans and 627 Filipinos.

Desertions during the year aggregated 4,451 or 5.48 per cent of the enlisted force of the army, as against 4.43 per cent during the preceding fiscal year. The 9th and 10th cavalry, negro regiments, and the 5th infantry, had the smallest number of desertions.

The union part of the roster of officers and enlisted men of Union and Confederate armies has long since been virtually completed, General Andrews said, and the work on the Confederate records has progressed so far that the clerical force is now engaged in reproducing the records of the Virginia organization, which probably will be completed this year. This leaves to be done only that work relating to the Confederate organizations not credited to any particular State.

OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS OF THE REGULAR ARMY.

It is decidedly discouraging to learn that leading army authorities at Washington have under serious consideration the expediency of recommending the disbandment of the four Negro regiments of the regular army. It is discouraging, because there are reasonable grounds for expecting that the recommendation will be made, and, if made, acted upon favorably by those who have the final disposition of the matter. But this final disposition should not be made without the most concerted, wise and stubborn fight to prevent it which the race has ever made. To allow it to be reached without making such a fight would be to the lasting discredit and injury of the ten millions of people, citizens in good and regular standing, concerned.

The four regiments concerned are the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry and the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry. They are officered throughout by white men, which is an outrage, with the exception of three or four commissioned officers, who are for the most part placed on detached service and not allowed to serve with their regiments, in order to prevent their contact with the white officers. The social phase of the army life is and has been thus placed above "the good of the service," a subterfuge which dissolves into thin air in times of war and corrupts the whole army service in times of peace. We call our Nation a Republic, and our citizens proclaim it loudly in every capital of the earth that they are "the only democrats," but we have more caste of race and occupation and class than any other Nation. We have a vulgar aristocracy of wealth and not a refined democracy of intellect and character.

The four Negro regiments of the regular army have a record for service and efficiency second to no other four regiments of white soldiers. They have stood the fighters' test of bravery and deportment in times of war and peace, but they are objectionable to the social faddists in the army and to the Southern white communities which think that Negroes are good for nothing except to draw water and hew wood for them. The rowdyism among them at Brownsville, if there was any, which was provoked by Texas toughs and Mexican greasers, and for which President Roosevelt discharged a whole battalion without trial and without honor, has



been duplicated within the past year by white soldiers in Delaware, Florida and Kansas. Soldiers have ways of their own, which civil law and public opinion do not countenance, but have never been able to correct, and never will be until "the war drum beats no longer." Much has to be forgiven soldiers as much as to be forgiven school youngsters.

It is encouraging to note that as race and caste prejudice are growing in the Republic of the United States they are steadily losing ground in the Republic of France, which is making a point of honoring Negro soldiers in her North African army and has just made a Martinique Negro a captain in her navy. Her example in this matter will certainly be followed, of necessity, by Great Britain, Germany, and other European Nations with large and increasing spheres of influence on the vast Continent of Africa.

Let us hope for the most and fight for the best to protect our interests in the regular army establishment and in all of the other related interests of our manhood and citizenship.

## COMPLIMENTS SOLDIERS ON THEIR DEPARTMENT

**Col. L. W. V. Kennon Speaks  
Highly of the Members  
of the 25th Infantry**

## REFERS TO THEIR RECORD

**Army Officers Furnishes Proof That  
Colored Soldiers Are Better Behaved  
Than White Soldiers.**

Under date of December 5, Col. L. W. V. Kennon, commanding the 25th Infantry, Schofield Barracks, Honolulu, Hawaii, took advantage of the application of company commanders for special privilege cards for the men of that regiment to pay a high compliment to the Negro soldiers, and to make comparisons between their actions and that of white soldiers preceding them in various stations altogether to the credit of the Negro soldiers.

Said Col. Kennon:  
"3. . . . With any body of soldiers it is usually a small minority who so conduct themselves as to give a bad name to the service. In this

regiment the minority is unusually small.

"4. . . . It has been remarked that few arrests of these men occur because they are in town less than men of other commands. Inquiry of the railway officials develops the fact that more soldiers of the 25th Infantry go to town than from any other organization at this post. They are inconspicuous in police records because of their good behaviour.

"5. It is their record here, as it has been elsewhere. In Spokane arrests of men in this regiment were as one to sixty as compared with the regiment preceding them at that station. While I have no official figures as to Fort Lawton, a police officer told me the soldiers of the white regiment at that post made twenty times the trouble our men did. Common report is that this record is repeating itself in Honolulu.

It has been remarked that a very great number of cards were issued by Captain Longan. He has been justified in his action, not one card having been forfeited by misconduct in town.

"(Signed) L. W. V. Kennon,  
"Colonel 25th Infantry."

**NEGRO REGIMENTS SHOULD BE  
OFFICERED BY NEGRO  
OFFICERS.**

Editor The Freeman:  
Please allow me space in your valuable columns to express my opinion on the above-named topic, which was mentioned in the editorial columns in your issue of May 10.

I have long since thought that it would be very appropriate for our colored outfits to have colored leaders, but have not had the opportunity to express my opinion. I have been in the service for a short while and can truthfully say that the army has nothing for which our intelligent young men can aspire under the present regime. If we were permitted to have colored officers it would be an inspiration to many young men now in college and would be an inducement for them to enlist. It is well that we as a people can see our conditions, though helpless we are, but in view of these facts there are men in our ranks who are fully capable of passing examination for commissions but for the much-talked-of and so-called color line. Of course, we are not to blame and neither are the army officers, but that portion of our government which looks out for the citizens and sees that we have equal rights and privileges. The army officer lives a luxurious life and to commission the Negro would be placing him on too high a plane of equality and giving him power to demand respect.

The point might be raised that the Negro is incompetent to hold these positions for lack of training. Then if that is true, why not Congress appropriate a sum of money for the preparation of Negro officers for our regiments at West Point?

As for the Negro's soldiering qualities, he has faithfully demonstrated that in the past and today, though looked upon with scorn and contempt, he forms the backbone of the American army, although he is denied certain rights which he should enjoy under the stars and stripes and is always herded out of the way in the isles of the Pacific or remotest parts of the country, yet he is still loyal and patriotic. If we are to have Negro soldiers why not station them among their people down South, where they will be classed as soldiers of the United States

Army and respected as men? A square deal is all we ask.

We have been emancipated for about forty-eight years—given freedom, but without liberty. Education and wealth will place us on a plane of equality from which we can demand respect, but there is only one way under the sun to obtain it, and that is like other races obtained theirs.

For our regiments to have colored commissioned officers as well as non-commissioned officers will be a mile-post on the road of Negro advancement and race progress.

Yours truly,  
GEORGE H. SINGLETON,  
Co. G, 24th Infantry.  
Camp McGrath, P. I., June 17, 1913.

## SOLDIERS MISTREATED IN THE PHILIPPINES

*The N. Y. A.*  
**Members of 24th Infantry Compelled to Labor Daily, Including Sunday—Work with Picks and Shovels in Mud and Water—White Soldiers Exempt from Hardships.** 9-11-13

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

FORT MILLS, Corregidor, P. I.—It is asserted by soldiers of the 24th Regiment, U. S. Infantry, stationed at this point, that they are the victims of rank discrimination and injustice, in that they are relieved from soldier's regular duty and compelled to labor every day, including Sundays, with picks and shovels in the mud and water. It is also said that their tents are pitched in swamps where the water flows under the cots, and that the soldiers have to tie their shoes to the cot legs to keep them from washing away.

This regiment has been stationed here for three months and during that time have had to work night and day during some periods. The white soldiers are not required to do this work and some of them sit around and jeer and ridicule the Negro soldiers at work in the mud. There are 1,200 native prisoners at this station, and when the rain starts they are taken in. The native prisoners, it is said, frequently ask the Negro soldiers if they are prisoners, and want to know why they have to work in the rain.

Conditions for the Negro soldier at this station are getting worse every day. The food is plentiful, but is half cooked and hardly more than slops. The soldiers are faithful and willing and are trying to do their duty under these adverse circumstances, but they feel very keenly the humiliating discrimination from which they are suffering.

## WIN FIGHT FOR NEGRO REGIMENT

## Gov. William Sulzer Signs Bill Providing for Colored Militiamen

*Age 6-5-13*  
**DELEGATION AT ALBANY**

**Mayor Gaynor Refuses to Sign  
Measure and it Is Taken to  
Albany and Signed in Nick of  
Time.**

## TO ORGANIZE BY COMPANIES

**Instead of Forming Entire Regiment 90  
Days After Bill Becomes a Law, One  
Company Will Be Organized.**

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

ALBANY, N. Y., June 4.—Gov. Sulzer has signed the bill authorizing the establishment of a colored regiment of infantry as a part of the National Guard of the State.

Had the chief executive of New York waited twenty minutes longer before affixing his signature the bill would not have become a law. It was exactly twenty minutes of twelve Monday night when Gov. Sulzer made up his mind to sign the bill. In doing so he declared that his actions were prompted because of his principle that there should be no discrimination among citizens because of race, color or creed.

The fight to secure the establishment of a colored regiment in New York State was won after bills had been presented and defeated in the Legislature for three years. Two previous bills failed of passage, owing to the opposition of white members of the National Guard, who pointed out to the legislators that if a colored regiment was formed in the State the "social equality" question would be raised. The fact that the Eighth Regiment, Illinois National Guard, was made up of colored men and officered by Negroes, and that there was no race agitation, did not cause the New York militiamen to let up in their opposition to the proposed colored regiment.

**Winning Fight Waged by Equity Congress.**

The fight for a colored regiment in New York State was begun by the Equity Congress, and to this organization, which is independent in politics,

goes the credit for the pleasing turn of affairs. Some months ago a Provisional Regiment was organized with Charles W. Fillmore as colonel.

When a delegation of Negroes went to Albany Monday to consult with Gov. Sulzer about signing the bill they were informed that a question had arisen as to whether the measure required the signature of the Governor or the Mayor. The bill was at once taken to Mayor Gaynor in New York City, who refused to sign it, stating that it was up to the Governor. He also volunteered the information that even if it was in his province to put his signature to the bill he would refuse to do so, as he did not think much of the colored regiment idea. One of his reasons for being against the bill was that it entailed the unnecessary expenditure of large sums of money.

Upon learning of Mayor Gaynor's unfriendly attitude toward the bill another quick trip was made to Albany, and Monday night after a conference Gov. Sulzer decided to attach his signature to the document.

Although the bill provides that within three months after the bill became a law the adjutant general shall organize and equip a colored regiment of infantry in the city of New York, Gov. Sulzer and Adj.-Gen. Henry De Witt Hamilton have decided to muster in but one company at the end of the ninety-day period. The formation of the first company will be regarded as an experiment, and if successful others will be organized from time to time.

Instead of being provided with an armory, temporary quarters will be secured for drilling purposes. The staff officers will not be chosen until the regiment has its full quota of enlisted men.

**WASHINGTON, D. C.**

*Age 1-23-13*  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Despite the fact that the recent conference of army officers was heralded as one where the abolition of Negro troops would be discussed and recommended, it seems that nothing was done. Secretary of War Stimson, in a letter to Prof. Burt G. Wilder, declares that the conference was only for the purpose of considering plans for the reorganization of the army, and that legislation would have to be passed by Congress before the four colored regiments could be discontinued. Those who are opposed to colored troops will have to wait until after the new regime gets in before something definite in that direction may be done.

Prof. Kelly Miller delivered an address on "Education for Manhood" at the weekly meeting of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association Tuesday night.

*Age 6-12-13*  
At the last moment Gov. Tener vetoed the bill authorizing a Negro regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard. We drop a tear on the grave of the dead hope. Gov. Tener is a Republican of the new school, and like many another does not know the Negro Joseph, "the Blind Samson in the land."